

January,



Carbon/Albany County Farm Service Agency:

101 Cypress Ave; PO Box 607
Saratoga, WY 82331

Phone: 307-326-5657 ext 2
Fax: 855-415-3441

County Executive Director:

Sheryl Hunter
sheryl.hunter@usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount: 307-322-4050
dixie.mount@usda.gov

County Committee:

Ryan Wilson, Cheryl Munroe,
Mary Ann Boles, Robin Carter,
and Darcy Kaisler

Next Committee Meeting:

January 27 at 10 AM

The office is open for business by phone and email only at this time.

Carbon and Albany County Producers May be Eligible for Emergency Conservation Program Assistance

Two wildfires have caused severe damage in Carbon and Albany Counties. These fires are the 316 (Hanna) Fire and the Mullen Fire.

If you've suffered severe damage, you may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Carbon/Albany County Farm Service Agency (FSA)

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- Be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- Is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- Affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- Impair or endanger the land

If you qualify for ECP assistance, you may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. Eligible socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers can receive up to 90 percent of the eligible cost of restoration. No one is eligible for more than \$500,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence.

If you've suffered a loss from a natural disaster may contact the local FSA County Office and request assistance from December 7, 2020 to January 30, 2021.

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all the following are met:

- An application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- The local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- The Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation

For more information about ECP, contact your Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee

I want to congratulate Darcy Kaisler on her election to the Carbon/Albany County Committee for Local Administrative Area 3, Little Snake River Conservation District area.

County Committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers and ranchers are fairly represented, make recommendations to the State Committee on existing FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers and ranchers about FSA opportunities. Thank you to everyone who returned a COC election ballot for this year's election.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Sheryl Hunter at 307-326-5657, extension 2, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Carbon and Albany County are eligible to apply for 2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native pasture.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2021, for 2020 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible losses include:

Livestock - grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Honeybee - loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Farm-Raised Fish - death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

If you've suffered eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses during calendar year 2020, you must file:

- A notice of loss within 30 calendar days after the loss is apparent (15 days for honeybee losses)
- An application for payment by Jan. 30, 2021

eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov

Click on the small **E-MAIL UPDATES** icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants and beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA offers Microloans through the direct loan program. Microloans focus on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche, and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

Important Dates:

January 30– Livestock Forage Program (LFP) for drought.

January 30– Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for water hauling.

January 30– Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for fence and livestock water sources lost or damaged in either the 316 (Hanna) Fire or the Mullen Fire.

January 30– Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) livestock losses due to eligible weather events. Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days of knowing you have a loss and applications for payment must be filed by January 30 of the year following the losses. 2020 losses must have an application for payment on file by January 30, 2021

Keeping Livestock Inventory Records

Livestock inventory records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster, so remember to keep them updated.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help you if you've suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, you'll be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;

For more information on documentation requirements, contact the Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

**USDA Farm Service Agency
Carbon/Albany County Office
PO Box 607
Saratoga, WY 82331**



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).